

PRESENTATION TO LIEUT.-COL. MC-EACHERN, C. M. G.

A very pleasing incident occurred in the 1st Brigade at the Laprairie Camp on the evening of the 6th inst. This was a presentation by the officers and members of the Frontier Rifle Association of a dress sash, sword belt, sword knot, and lace for trousers and cap numerals, to Lieut.-Colonel McEachern, C. M. G. Commanding 50th Huntingdon Borderers, for his efficient and invaluable services as Secretary Treasurer from the formation of the Association in 1865. A number of the officers of the brigade met for the purpose in front of the mess tent of the 21st Battalion, Lieut.-Col. Fletcher, C. M. G. President, in presenting the articles, made a very appropriate speech alluding to Colonel McEachern's well known services as Secretary, and as a volunteer officer on the frontier during the Fenian troubles. He was seconded by Lieut. Colonel Rogers, Major McNaughton, and others. Lieut.-Colonel McEachern replied in a suitable manner, stating that he felt he was not worthy of the honor conferred upon him. The Band of the 60th were present, and played some of their best pieces between the speeches. Lieut. Col. Marchand, 21st, and Capt. P. Smith, 60th Battalion; and Lieut.-Colonel Miller, 52nd Battalion, also expressed their cordial congratulations to the gallant Colonel and their good wishes for the prosperity of the Association. Captain Sixby and several others enlivened the meeting by singing some good patriotic songs and choruses, after which the Company were invited to partake of a bountiful supply of refreshments laid out in the tent. The articles are of silver and scarlet lace and were imported by Messrs Savage and Lyman.—*St. John's News.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—In your notice, (I cannot say your answer) of my letter in the *Globe* of the 14th instant, you say that "it is quite useless for 'Kanuck' or any one else, to challenge a notorious fact of History. The militia bill became law on the 1st Oct. 1868, under its provisions, the present force has been organized, any previous organization was merely provisional." Now if you may remember the statement you made, which called forth my letter, was that on Col. Ross' appointment, the force "might be said to have had hardly an existence, and most certainly not the shadow of organization."

Now as you quote notorious facts of history, let me quote a few. Col. McDougall was appointed Adjutant General I think, in 1865,—in 1866 he arranged the divisional districts, and appointed the assistant and deputy assistant Adjutants General, provisionally to the same districts that they now hold, with one exception.

On the first of Oct. 1868, as you say the new law came into force, on the same day the Dominion was divided into nine military districts, and Col. McDougall re-gazetted Adjutant General. On the 23rd Dec. 1868, the deputy Adjutants General were gazetted to

their present appointments, excepting Col. Jarvis, who was reappointed a short time afterwards. On the 19th Jan. 1869, the brigade divisions were gazetted, and their bounds fixed. On the 29th Jan. 1869, a great number of the Reserve Militia were gazetted, and were being gazetted continually for two or three months following. On the 6th Feb. the great bulk of the old Volunteer Force were re-gazetted just as they were before. On the 23rd Feb. 1869, the enrollment of the Reserve Militia was commenced and carried on during the following two or three months. On the 20th Feb. 1869, Col. McDougall sent in his resignation on the 4th May, it was accepted, and on the 2nd July 1869, his successor was gazetted as having arrived in Canada and assumed the command.

Now Sir, these are "notorious facts," and in the face of them you say the force had not the shadow of organization, when Col. Ross assumed command. I challenge you again as I challenged you in my last, to point out what portion of the organization of the force Col. Ross had been the author of. And I do so because it could not fail to be a reflection on Col. McDougall, if after four years command of the Force "it had hardly an existence and most certainly not the shadow of organization."

I may remark, for your information, that my writing as I do, cannot be a breach of discipline, as I am not connected with the Force in any capacity, and do not recognize Col. Ross as my superior. Nor is it on personal grounds, for I never conversed with him in my life, never had anything to do with him, and if he saw me to-day I do not believe he could tell my name.

Col. Ross, I am told, never in his life commanded a brigade until he was appointed Adjutant General. He had the same opportunities of learning brigade movements that our Volunteer Colonels have, namely, by study, by looking on at field days, and by commanding a battalion in Brigade drill; and I cannot see why our higher Volunteer officers are incapable of criticizing his conduct. I saw at once at Niagara that he was a novice, and that the camp at a cost of from \$80,000 to \$100,000 served merely as a school to enable him to learn brigade drill, and was also being used to create political effect in favor of the Department. I saw him moving his regiments one at a time as a child would. I saw him act so that his two brigades had nothing to do and learnt nothing, for they had no chance. I saw that he did not once execute a combined movement of the whole force, or any considerable portion of it. That he never changed front the sixteenth part of a circle during sixteen days of drilling—that he never threw out a picket or videtto or out-post of any kind. That he made the cavalry ride up and down in long skirmish lines waving their sabres to and fro like supes in a fourth-rate theatre, telling the officers it did not matter how it was done it

would look well and have a good effect. I wrote an account of it for two purposes, to expose the folly of causing the cavalry to make fools of themselves in order to humbug civilians and the press, and to advise Col. Ross to take one small brigade into camp in the future until he learned how to handle it, as it was clearly evident he could not manage two.

Now, I have mentioned facts, and I hold it requires very little capacity to notice them and publish them. I hope you will allow that even a Canadian could do that, and I am willing to leave it to the military public whether Col. Ross managed the camp well or not, and will ask you whether his new style of cavalry drill is the result of twenty six years regular experience or not?

Your sneer about only two letters appearing, and your comment that this circumstance shows the satisfaction of the force, is easily answered. In the first place a large number of letters have appeared—and secondly, you may know, and if not I do, that an order was issued forbidding Volunteers from writing letters to the public press criticizing the management of the Force, or matters of that nature, and that quite a correspondence ensued on one occasion about a letter published by a Volunteer of the 10th Royals in the *Globe* in contravention of the order. In fact I have been told repeatedly by Volunteers, both officers and men, that my letters were strictly accurate,—that they were delighted I had written, and many told me they would have written themselves to the same effect had it not been forbidden.

The officers Col. Ross recommended as Colonels were all army officers except Col. Harwood who was never a Volunteer, and if your principle holds good that only army men can have capacity to know when Brigade movements are well done and other duties properly executed. How do you reconcile your praises of the present condition of the Force with the fact that one district, one-ninth of the Dominion, is commanded by a man who was never a Volunteer or army man? Oh, consistency thou art a jewel!

Lastly, I may tell you, Sir, that your proposition that no Canadian Volunteer should ever be considered capable of expressing an opinion on the merits of the officers of the staff will not go down. I can quite agree with you that you are not the organ of the Force, for, if so, you would hardly endeavor so to destroy their self confidence, but it will not go down. If men like Gen. Lindsay and Colonels Lowry, Wolseley, Jenyns and McDougall come here the Volunteers will know in spite of all you can do or say that they have good men over them, and if men like Col. Ross show themselves incapable the Force will know it, and the public will know it too and express it. What a paradise for incapables our Canadian army would be if your view was held that the previous holding of a commission in the Regular service should of itself absolutely preclude all criticism.

Yours, &c.,

"KANTUCK."